

Pocono Mountain Recession Tracker™

Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Employment & Wages Rate

Unemployment is on the rise in Pike, Monroe, and Carbon counties, while it is holding steady at 7-percent in Wayne County. Of the four counties, Carbon and Pike appear to be the most economically depressed. Pike County saw its unemployment rate climb above 11-percent in February and March 2009, while Carbon County topped out at 10.7-percent in February 2009. Wage disparity is also evident in those counties, as workers in many sectors were consistently paid less money than their peers in Monroe and Wayne counties.

	Wayne	Pike	Monroe	Carbon
Jan-09	9	10.1	9.1	10
Feb-09	9.4	11.3	9.4	10.7
Mar-09	9.2	11.2	9.7	10.5
Apr-09	7	8.4	8.5	9.8
May-09	7	8.5	9.1	10.3

Monroe County workers in nearly all industries were paid significantly higher wages than their peers in other counties, with Carbon and Pike County workers consistently earning the lowest wages. There were some exceptions, particularly in the fields of health care, manufacturing, and wholesale trade, where Carbon County workers were paid better salaries than their peers in Pike and Wayne Counties. Nonetheless, Monroe County workers still earned the most money.

The chart on the following page depicts a sampling of four industries. The wages depicted were those earned in the third quarter of 2008, the most recent data available. It is clear from the chart that Monroe County workers are significantly out-earning their peers in other counties.

Average Wage by Industry in the Four-County Area			
3rd Qtr. 2008			
Industry	Total Establishments	Total Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Retail Trade	1,217	16,202	\$434.00
Accommodation and Food Service	781	17,974	\$340.00
Health Care and Social Assistance	963	12,151	\$629.00
Manufacturing	270	8,287	\$814.00
Construction	1,010	5,044	\$730.00
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	681	4,290	\$386.00
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	167	4,506	\$349.00
Administration and Waste Services	337	3,638	\$543.00
Transportation and Warehousing	200	3,451	\$647.00
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	592	2,311	\$704.00
Finance and Insurance	364	2,186	\$766.00
Information	95	1,839	\$714.00
Wholesale Trade	306	1,733	\$775.00
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	296	1,697	\$411.00
Education Services	61	754	\$366.00
Mining	32	280	\$811.00
Management of Companies and Enterprises	12	221	\$1,055.00
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	35	206	\$404.00
Utilities	17	121	\$1,074.00
Totals:	7,436	83,996	\$629.00

The average weekly wage in the four-county area is \$629.00. Of the 83,996 total employees, 57,500, or 69-percent, earn a below average wage.

Among the leaders in employment were the areas of retail trade, food service, and health care. In the third quarter of 2008, 16,202 people in the four-county area worked in retail, earning an average salary of \$434.00 per week. In the first quarter of 2007, 15,791 people worked in retail, earning an average salary of \$413.50 per week.

In the third quarter of 2008, 12,151 people were employed in health care. They earned an average salary of \$629.00 per week. In the first quarter of 2007 11,607 people worked in health care, earning an average salary of \$579.25 per week.

Manufacturing, the fourth largest area of employment, has seen its employees, and its wages, decrease over the last two years. In the first quarter of 2007, 8,499 employees earned an average salary of \$848 per week. By the third quarter of 2008, the average weekly salary had dipped to \$814.00, and there were 212 fewer jobs.

Among the lowest paid employees throughout the counties were those in Accommodation and Food Service (\$340.00), Agriculture (\$404.00), Education Services (\$366.00), and Other Services (\$386.00). The highest wages were paid in utilities, management, manufacturing and mining.

It appears the areas of Finance and Information have been hardest hit the last two years, particularly in Monroe County. The number of employees steadily declined, except for a spike in the second quarter of 2007, and wages fell sharply. In the first quarter of 2007, finance professionals in the four-county area earned an average wage of \$805 per week. By the third quarter of 2008, they were earning \$765.50.

Wages fell sharply in the second and third quarters of 2007. Finance professionals earned an average wage of \$707.75 in the second quarter, down sharply from the previous quarter. Wages continued to fall in the third quarter, although not as sharply. They rebounded to \$858 in the fourth quarter of 2007, and fell to \$808.50 in the first quarter of 2008. In the second quarter of 2008 finance and insurance professionals were earning about \$725 per week, and in the third quarter of 2008 they earned \$765.50.

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages			
Finance and Insurance			
	Average Establishments	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
1st Qtr. 2007			
Carbon	56	370	\$728
Monroe	203	1237	\$825
Pike	46	203	\$795
Wayne	66	516	\$872
2nd. Qtr. 2007			
Carbon	55	372	\$639
Monroe	205	1238	\$774
Pike	45	190	\$659
Wayne	68	510	\$759
3rd. Qtr. 2007			
Carbon	55	374	\$665
Monroe	206	1205	\$771
Pike	47	174	\$603
Wayne	67	516	\$774
4th Qtr. 2007			
Carbon	55	370	\$703
Monroe	208	1188	\$957
Pike	49	183	\$765
Wayne	72	517	\$1,007
1st. Qtr. 2008			
Carbon	55	348	\$817

Monroe	206	1148	\$808
Pike	53	177	\$698
Wayne	71	527	\$911
2nd Qtr. 2008			
Carbon	52	374	\$670
Monroe	201	1440	\$741
Pike	51	169	\$677
Wayne	68	526	\$806
3rd. Qtr. 2008			
Carbon	52	370	\$703
Monroe	204	1130	\$751
Pike	50	171	\$771
Wayne	67	516	\$837

There was also great wage fluctuation in the area of information, with a sharp decline over the last two years. This was most evident in Pike County, where wages fell from \$1,157 to \$648 between the first quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2008. The number of establishments fell from 12 to 10, but climbed to 13 in the third quarter of 2007 and 14 in the fourth quarter of 2007. At the end of the first quarter of 2008, there were only 11 establishments.

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages			
Information			
1st. Qtr. 2007			
	Average Establishments	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Carbon	20	924	\$633
Monroe	40	458	\$807
Pike	12	142	\$1,157
Wayne	24	267	\$747
2nd Qtr. 2007			
Carbon	20	896	\$586

Monroe	43	471	\$705
Pike	13	134	\$977
Wayne	24	268	\$736
3rd. Qtr. 2007			
Carbon	18	901	\$677
Monroe	42	477	\$742
Pike	13	128	\$1,014
Wayne	24	274	\$755
4th. Qtr. 2007			
Carbon	19	899	\$608
Monroe	40	464	\$744
Pike	14	128	\$1,252
Wayne	24	277	\$734
1st. Qtr. 2008			
Carbon	18	981	\$671
Monroe	41	462	\$724
Pike	11	86	\$629
Wayne	23	305	\$932
2nd. Qtr. 2008			
Carbon	18	989	\$585
Monroe	42	465	\$683
Pike	10	84	\$679
Wayne	25	297	\$1,134
3rd. Qtr. 2008			
Carbon	18	1006	\$669
Monroe	43	458	\$705
Pike	10	83	\$648

Wayne	25	292	\$832
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In the first quarter of 2007, there were 142 Information workers in Pike County. By the third quarter of 2008, there were 83. The number of employees dropped steadily over that time. The largest drop-off came in the first quarter of 2007. By the end of that quarter, there were 42 fewer information employees in Pike County. The sharp decline in wages corresponds with the massive drop-off of employees.

Unemployment is on the rise in all four counties, with the exception of Wayne County, where it is holding steady at 7-percent. Except for the industries of finance and information, wages remained steady and there were no significant changes in employment or establishments.

It should be noted, however, that manufacturing experienced a decline in all areas – establishments, employment, and wages. The field of Management of Companies and Enterprises also experienced great wage fluctuation between the first quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2008.